

**Notice of Public Scoping
Grazing Permit Renewals
and
Land Health Assessments**

Comment Period: Open until October 31, 2004

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The Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, we would like any information or concerns you may have concerning the Roan Creek/Carr Creek land health assessment area. Secondly, twelve grazing permits will be renewed during fiscal year (FY) 2005 (10/1/04 to 9/30/05). To process the renewal of these permit/leases we would like the public to identify any issues, concerns, or resource conditions on the allotment(s) associated with the permit, to assist us in prioritizing the work.

The assessment of public land health will be done on a land area basis. During FY 2005 the GJFO will be continuing evaluation of the Roan Creek area north of DeBeque. It is anticipated that it may take ten years or more to complete the assessment on all lands within the FO. With this notice, our objective is to solicit the public's help in identifying land areas within the FO that should be given a priority for assessing land health standards.

Following are the land areas and acreage identified by the Field Office that we are soliciting input regarding the land health assessment.

Name	Federal Acreage
Roan Creek/Carr Creek	89,213

Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Using the comments and all other available information, the team will establish the priority list of the land area(s) that will be assessed for compliance with the health standards during FY 2005. The FO will also be completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and making decisions on the renewal of certain grazing permit/leases. Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be.

An interdisciplinary team will rank the expiring permits into high, moderate, and low priority categories based on all information available including public comments. The ranking will help determine the amount of consideration necessary and the appropriate level of NEPA documentation for reaching a decision on each grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

Twelve grazing permits are scheduled for renewal in FY 2005 on the following twenty grazing allotments:

Allotment Name (number)	Federal Acres	Permittee	Land Area
Northeast Creek (06156)	3,125	Leona Alber	Unaweep Canyon
Massey (06437)	692	Robert Massey	Unaweep Canyon
Bull Draw Common (06502)	4,858		
Bull Hill-Mav Common (06407)	15,175		
Ute Creek Common	7,123		
Spring Creek (16115)	5,709	Jay or Doris VanLoan	Glade Park
Dry Kimball (16834)	832	John Dymond	DeBeque
West Spears (06753)	6,598	Doden & Trout (#10 Ent. Lease)	DeBeque
East End of Cow Mtn. (06716)	386		
Cow Mountain (06751)	1,995		
Horse Mountain (06726)	553		
Homestead (06740)	4,557		
Brink Pedigo Gulch (06703)	5,624		
Stoner-Walker (06749)	5,771		
Corral Cyn. Mtn. (06606)	9,361	Jason Lynch	Douglas Pass
Lapham-Post (16506)	8,061	Tom Wood	Douglas Pass
Guthrie Place (16814)	162	Alan Baier	Collbran
Millholland (16840)	271	Wes Bucher	Collbran
Davis (16818)	484	Steve Chaffin	Collbran
West Salt Common (16603)	92,310	Lazy 3 X Ranch	Baxter Pass/Mack
West Salt Common (16603)	92,310	David Terrell	Baxter Pass/Mack

Following completion of the scoping process, comments and all available information will be used by the FO interdisciplinary team to prepare a Field Office Plan. This plan will consist of two lists, the land area(s) planned for assessment, and the ranking of permits/leases to be renewed.

Annually hereafter, this same process will be used. A public scoping notice will be posted on the Internet soliciting comments on the identified land areas for health assessment, and ranking grazing permit\leases up for renewal.

If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a land health assessment, please contact the individual at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do not have specific comments at this time but have questions about the land areas or allotments listed in this notice, contact the individual at the address above.